

Bottom Stand Opened

On 13th February, 1932 the bottom stand was opened by Mr. R. A. Lunnon, President of the Berks. & Bucks. F.A. It was 360 feet in length and it was said that Wycombe Wanderers were the first amateur club to construct stands on both sides of the playing field. Further improvements came at the start of the 1932-33 season when new enlarged players dressing rooms were opened with tiled baths large enough to take a whole team. The referee's accommodation was also improved.

The Wanderers had a great run in the F.A. Cup reaching the First Round Proper for the first time in the club's history. To do so they beat Gradwells Sports (2-0), Maidenhead United (3-2), Park Royal (6-1), Slough (3-2) and Camberley & York Town (4-0). In the First Round Wycombe were drawn away to Gillingham. The match was played on 26th November, 1932 and ended in a 1-1 draw with Braisher scoring for the Blues. The replay took place at Loakes Park on the following Wednesday afternoon when many people took the afternoon off work or school to watch the game. Wycombe had a disastrous start when Cox put through his own goal in the opening minutes, but the Wanderers fought back and by half-time were leading 2-1. In the second half Gillingham scored three times without reply to win 4-2. Wycombe won the Berks. & Bucks. Senior Cup beating Chesham United 1-0 in the final at Maidenhead. The Hospital Cup match produced an unusual result when the Wanderers overwhelmed the Cameron Highlanders by 13-3.

Season 1933-34 was a disappointing one with Wycombe finishing in tenth place in the league and without an away win all season. In February, 1934 Frank Jordan, a player, died of meningitis. A special game was arranged against Reading who won 6-5, the match being watched by a crowd of 3,000 and all proceeds going to his widowed mother.

The County Cup again came to Loakes Park in 1934-35 when Aylesbury United were beaten 3-0 in the final at Reading. But in the league the club finished bottom but one and had to seek re-election.

The Second World War

Soon the shadows of war were again looming darkly on the horizon, with Loakes Park being used for gas chamber demonstrations to the general public. The 1939-40 season had barely got under way when the War broke out. Wanderers had played just one Isthmian League match and one F.A. Cup match before all normal competitions were suspended. The club Committee resolved to carry on and to make an effort to arrange Saturday games. It was agreed to join the Great Western Suburban League, and to enter for the Berks. & Bucks. Emergency Senior Cup which was won at Christmas time against Wycombe Redfords by 4-0. The ground was used by the military and civil authorities who were very fair and understanding allowing the football club to continue to function throughout the war. In 1943 Mr. G. T. Miles who had served the club as President, Chairman and Treasurer for over 46 years died.

In 1944-45 Wycombe Wanderers won the Great Western Suburban League title by a margin of seven points from their nearest rivals Maidenhead United.

Following the end of hostilities in 1945, football administration quickly began to function again with the Isthmian League and most Cup competitions re-organised in time for the start of the 1945-46 season. This was remarkable for the number of goals scored with the Wanderers' 26 league games producing a total of no fewer than 168 goals—or an average of 6.46 goals per game. It was also a boom time for attendances with large crowds packing into grounds each Saturday throughout the country to watch football.

Frank Adams Presents Loakes Park to the Club

During the following season Frank Adams presented Loakes Park to the club as a gift. He had already served the club as player, captain and committee man, and was a prominent member of the F.A. Council. The handing over of the deeds took place on the playing pitch before the Isthmian League match with Corinthian Casuals on 19th April, 1947. In his speech to a large crowd he said: "If future generations obtain the same enjoyment out of Loakes Park as it has given me in the past, then this gift will have been worthwhile." A presentation was also made to Charlie Tilbury who had decided to retire as groundsman. He had joined the club in 1898 as a player and later captained the side. He continued to help out at Loakes Park for several years after his retirement.



The scene at Loakes Park on the occasion of the Presentation of the Deeds of the ground to the Club

Photo: Ronald Goodearl

On 28th February, 1948, Loakes Park staged the British Youth Championship between England and Wales. England won 4-2.

Following the retirement of Reg Boreham in 1949, Mr. W. J. Hayter became the ninth General Secretary in the history of the club, a position he held for 20 years.

In 1949-50 Wycombe reached the Semi-Final of the Amateur Cup—but were lucky to survive to play in the Competition Proper at all. In the Fourth Qualifying Round at Maidenhead the Wanderers were trailing 4-5 when fog caused the match to be abandoned. The replayed match ended in a 0-0 draw with Wycombe winning the third game 2-1 at Loakes Park. In the First Round the Blues had little difficulty

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of disposing of Bungay (4-0), but the Second Round produced a classic tie against Crook Town at Loakes Park which was decided by a goal from McCullum. Dulwich Hamlet visited Loakes Park in the Third Round and an exciting match ended in a Wanderers victory by 3-1. Drawn at home again in the Fourth Round a record crowd of 15,850 saw Wanderers turn on a fine display to win 4-1 against St. Albans.

The Semi-Final was against Bishop Auckland at Brentford. A crowd of 33,000 attended the game which was also covered by television. After half an hour Bishop Auckland were awarded a penalty which was converted, and nine minutes after the interval the Wanderers found themselves two goals down. Undeterred Wycombe made a great fight back in the last 20 minutes of the match. It was started by left half Johnny Way who scored to reduce the deficit and only a brilliant display by the Bishops' keeper Washington kept the Wycombe forwards out.

Team: C. Lodge, W. Flippance, G. Jackson, F. Gearing, M. Krupa, J. Way, J. Blizzard, W. McCullum, H. Mikrut, K. Butler, P. Birdseye.

In 1951 Bob Spatchett expressed his desire not to seek re-election as Chairman. He had joined the club in 1899 and had served as player, linesman, Committee man and Chairman. John Timberlake was elected; he had already given great service to the club and captained the side at the time of the Amateur Cup win in 1931. It was decided to engage a full-time coach and Mr. James McCormack was appointed.

In 1951-52 Wycombe were knocked out of the F.A. Cup twice in one season. Playing away to Headington United, the Blues lost 2-3, but the home side had played an ineligible player. The F.A. awarded the match to Wycombe. But the reprieve was only temporary—in the next round Aylesbury United visited Wycombe winning 2-1.

At the start of the 1952-53 season Sid Cann was engaged as coach. He was to play an important part in the success enjoyed by Wycombe Wanderers during his nine seasons at Loakes Park.

In 1953-54 the Wanderers finished in third place in the Isthmian League and won the County Cup defeating Slough Centre in the final after a replay.

Wycombe's next appearance in the Amateur Cup Semi-Finals came in 1954-55. In the First Round the Blues won 2-1 at Wealdstone following a 1-1 draw at Loakes Park. Home wins over Woking (4-0) and Ilford (3-1) took Wycombe to the Fourth Round where they were drawn at home to the famous Pegasus side, then coached by Joe Mercer. The match was due to be played on 19th February but was postponed due to snow. The following Saturday a crowd of 13,300 saw Wycombe do everything but score in a thrilling Cup tie. The replay took place at Iffley Road, Oxford where the crowd was limited to 6,500. Wycombe came from behind to score twice in the last twenty minutes, the winner by Jackie Tomlin coming in the last minute when the match seemed set to go to extra time. In the Semi-Final the Blues again faced Bishop Auckland, this time at Doncaster. Six special trains carried Wycombe fans to the match to swell the crowd to 24,800. They saw an epic game played in the warm March sunshine. Before the kick-off Malcolm Hunt decided not to risk his damaged knee, but even with a temperature of 100 degrees Barry Darvill declared himself fit—and played the game of his life. At half-time there was no score. The Bishops forced the pace in the second half but with 20 minutes left Paul Bates had a great opportunity to put the Wanderers ahead but delayed his shot giving the Bishop's defence the chance to clear. Then Wycombe relaxed their grip in defence and Oliver scored the goal that mattered after 70 minutes. It put Bishop Auckland into the Amateur Cup Final for the 16th time and was their third defeat of the Wanderers in eight years. Wycombe's hero that day was 17 year old Len Worley who tormented and bewildered the Bishop Auckland players with his running.

The 1955-56 season began in eventful style when the Blues were drawn away to Witney Town in the F.A. Cup. At full time there was no score after the home side had missed a penalty and a number of other scoring chances. The replay at Loakes Park found Wycombe in sparkling form scoring 15 goals to 1, including five each by Paul Bates and Geoff Truett. Wycombe went on to reach the First Round Proper for the first time in 23 years. They found themselves drawn at home to Burton Albion who ended the Wanderers run with a 1-3 defeat.

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Isthmian League Champions

On 31st December, 1955 Wycombe overwhelmed Romford 6-2 to become the leaders of the Isthmian League—a position they held to the end of the season. The championship was secured for the first time ever with a 3-0 win over Dulwich Hamlet at Loakes Park on 21st April amidst scenes of celebration. Wycombe ended as top scorers in the league and set up a record winning margin of 12 points.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE 1955-56

Senior Section

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Wycombe Wanderers	28	19	5	4	82	38	43
Bromley	28	12	7	9	54	43	31
Leytonstone	28	12	7	9	50	44	31
Barking	28	14	3	11	62	60	31
Woking	28	12	7	9	41	45	31
Kingstonian	28	12	6	10	67	64	30
Walthamstow Avenue	28	13	3	12	61	45	29
Ilford	28	10	8	10	44	52	28
Oxford City	28	10	7	11	48	55	27
Clapton	28	9	8	11	45	48	26
Wimbledon	28	12	2	14	51	62	26
Corinthian-Casuals	28	9	7	12	56	56	25
Dulwich Hamlet	28	9	6	13	55	67	24
Romford	28	9	6	13	42	55	24
St. Albans City	28	2	10	16	36	62	14

The Reserves completed an impressive double by winning the Reserve Section—their second title win.



ISTHMIAN LEAGUE CHAMPIONS—1955-56

Back Row: N. West, D. Syrett, F. Westley (Captain). Centre Row: W. J. Hayter (Hon. General Secretary), F. Lawson, M. Wicks, B. Darvill, J. Morning (Vice-Captain), S. Cann (Coach). Front Row: L. Worley, C. Trott, P. Bates, J. Tomlin, G. Truett.

The 1956-57 season began with a tour of Switzerland with matches against Schaffhausen (drew 1-1), F.C. Cantonal (won 3-0) and F.C. Winterthur (won 4-1). The club were honoured to be selected to play the Ugandan touring team in August, 1956. It was a historic occasion which attracted nationwide interest partly due to the visitors playing football in bare feet. Newspapers gave wide coverage of the game and television cameras were at Loakes Park to record the occasion. The Wanderers were in fine

shooting form and scored 10 goals to 1 against their African opponents, who later on their tour defeated the England Amateur team. At a dinner held in their honour at the Red Lion Hotel, Sir Stanley Rous, Secretary of the Football Association, in proposing the Toast to the visitors advised them not to be too despondent in losing by so high a score as they had been playing against the possible winners of the Amateur Cup. How true those words nearly became as the Wanderers went on to reach Wembley for the first—and so far only—time in their history.

The trail started with a journey to St. Albans in the First Round and a 4-1 win. The next round at home to Clapton produced a thrilling display when a hat-trick by Paul Bates helped Wycombe to a 4-2 win. Then Hounslow tested the Blues at Loakes Park in an exciting match in front of 12,000 before Wycombe ran out 3-1 winners. The Quarter Final was played in torrential rain at Newbury Park, Ilford. Both sides gave a terrific display to entertain the rain-soaked 12,000 fans in a 3-3 draw. The replay at Loakes Park attracted a crowd of 15,500—just 350 short of the record attendance—who saw Wycombe win 2-0 with goals from Smith and Trott.

The Semi-Final draw threw up some interesting memories of 1931. Wycombe were to travel to Highbury—the scene of their earlier triumph—to play Corinthian-Casuals. In the other Semi-Final Hayes were to play Bishop Auckland—a repeat of 1931 when Hayes won to play Wycombe in the Final. But Bishop Auckland were bidding to complete a hat-trick of Amateur Cup wins and made no mistake this time.

Nine Kingpins

By GITTINS



Wycombe's match with Corinthian-Casuals was a classic game of skill, speed, sportsmanship and courage. The Wanderers were a goal down in the early minutes but then took the lead with Paul Bates scoring twice. Casuals then equalised and with the score at 2-2 injuries forced both Frank Westley and Frank Smith to leave the field. Down to nine men Wycombe took the lead through Len Worley. Westley was able to return to hobble about on the left wing, but Smith was taken to hospital with a dislocated shoulder. "Never stop attacking" had been the instructions of Sid Cann, and with only minutes to go Len Worley scored his second and Wycombe's fourth to book their place at Wembley.

The Final attracted a crowd of 90,000. The first half was fairly even with Frank Smith scoring to equalise for the Wanderers. But the second half found the Bishops in dominating mood and two further goals gave them a 3-1 win and their third consecutive Amateur Cup triumph.

Team: D. Syrett, F. Lawson, F. Westley, J. Truett, M. Wicks, G. Truett, L. Worley, C. Trott, P. Bates, J. Tomlin, F. Smith



Action from the 1957 Amateur Cup Final at Wembley

Photo: Ronald Goodeeri

The team received a wonderful welcome home although they had not won the Cup with crowds of cheering people lining the streets as the team travelled in an open coach to the Red Lion in the High Street. There masses of enthusiastic supporters cheered and clapped to give the players and officials a tremendous reception.

Excitement continued right up until the last match of the season which was, by chance, against Corinthian-Casuals—the team the Wanderers had defeated in the Amateur Cup Semi-Final. Wycombe won the match 3-2 to retain their Isthmian League title by just one point from Woking.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE 1956-57

Senior Section

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Wycombe Wanderers . . .	30	18	6	6	86	53	42
Woking	30	20	1	9	104	47	41
Bromley	30	16	5	9	78	60	37
Oxford City	30	16	3	11	65	57	35
Ilford	30	12	8	10	59	65	32
Tooting & Mitcham Utd. .	30	10	11	9	53	48	31
Kingstonian	30	11	9	10	72	77	31
Walthamstow Avenue . .	30	11	8	11	48	46	30
Dulwich Hamlet	30	13	3	14	65	54	29
St. Albans City	30	13	3	14	62	71	29
Leytonstone	30	11	6	13	50	50	28
Clapton	30	9	9	12	48	59	27
Wimbledon	30	10	5	15	47	66	25
Romford	30	10	5	15	53	81	25
Barking	30	7	6	17	48	72	20
Corinthian-Casuals	30	7	4	19	46	78	18

The reserves had also enjoyed a good season; in addition to winning the Isthmian League Reserve championship for the second successive season they had also won the Berks. & Bucks. Intermediate Cup and the Chalfont Charity Cup to round off one of the most successful seasons in the history of the club.



Cheering crowds through the High Street to welcome home the Wanderers team after their Wembley Amateur Cup Final defeat.

Season 1957-58 was another good one for the club who finished as runners-up in the Isthmian League while the second string completed a hat-trick of Reserve Section title wins. The Berks. & Bucks. Senior Cup again came to Loakes Park after the Blues beat Maidenhead United 1-0 in the final. The Reserves went on their first ever tour to Cornwall at the end of the season playing Newquay and Penzance.

At this time the Supporters Club was active in helping with several ground improvement schemes. These included the erection of the wrought iron gates and fencing at the west side of the ground. The gates were officially opened in October, 1958 on the occasion of the first ever Amateur International staged at Loakes Park when England played South Africa. This was not the first time a South African touring side had visited Wycombe—as long ago as 1924 a Springbok XI had beaten the Wanderers by 5-2.

The 1958-59 season began in spectacular style with Wycombe scoring 28 goals in their first four Isthmian League matches against Kingstonian (6-2), St. Albans (8-0), Corinthian-Casuals (8-1) and Walthamstow Avenue (6-3). In the F.A. Cup a 3-1 win at Hendon put the club into the First Round where they were drawn away to Northampton Town. The Wanderers gave a thrilling display of attacking football and could have been ahead with better finishing by half-time. But in the final twenty minutes of the match the superior stamina and finishing power of the professionals gave The Cobblers a 2-0 win.

Wycombe met Aylesbury United in the semi-final of the County Cup and after Aylesbury had established a 5-1 half-time lead, the Blues made a remarkable comeback in a match which finished 6-6 after extra time. The replay was disastrous for Wycombe who not only lost 1-2 but Michael Rockell broke his left leg early in the second half. The team finished third in the league table with the consolation of being top goal scorers with 93 goals.

Wanderers Through to F.A. Cup Second Round

1959-60 saw Wycombe through to the Second Round of the F.A. Cup for the first time in their history. Victories over Oxford City (1-0) and Wisbech Town (4-2) at Loakes Park gave the Blues the chance of an away match at Watford, then in the Fourth Division of the Football League. Thousands travelled from Wycombe for the game and swelled the gate to 23,907—Watford's largest crowd since the visit of Manchester United in 1952. Wycombe's players showed both courage and enthusiasm and although it was Watford who opened the scoring after eight minutes Wycombe fought back and after 19 minutes equalised through Atkins. Just before half-time Watford scored two quick goals to give

them a 3-1 lead at the interval. A fourth was added before Wycombe were given a chance to reduce the arrears when they were awarded a penalty following a foul on Bates. Sadly for Wycombe the penalty kick was fired directly at the goalkeeper, and with two minutes to go Watford scored their fifth to make the final score 5-1 to the Hornets.

On 20th February 1960, Wycombe thrashed Ilford 10-0 at Loakes Park to record their highest ever win in the Isthmian League. The scorers were P. James (3), P. Bates (3), L. Worley, C. Trott, G. Free and J. Beck. The Berks & Bucks Senior Cup was won against Maidenhead United at Reading by 3-0. During the last quarter of the season Wycombe played excellently to finish runners-up in the league with the destination of the title in doubt until the final matches. The Reserves were successful in winning the Reserve title for the club.

Season 1960-61 was one of disappointment after the success enjoyed in the seasons before. The team finished eighth in the table and although reaching the First Round of the F.A. Cup, lost to Kettering Town. At the end of the season Sid Cann decided to resign to return to the Football League.

1961-62 proved to be another poor season. The club reached the F.A. Cup First Round for the fifth successive season when Ashford Town were the visitors. The match ended in a goalless draw with the replay being played under floodlights at Ashford and the local side winning 3-0. In the league the team finished in seventh place. One newcomer in the side that season was Tony Horseman. He scored a goal on his Isthmian League debut at Oxford City on 23rd October 1961, and by the end of the season had notched a total of 11—the start of an outstanding career. The club again staged an Amateur International match against Iceland on 16th September 1961. In the Wycombe Hospital Cup match against Loughborough Colleges the Wanderers fielded three "guest" players—Mike Keen (Q.P.R.), Dennis Edwards (Charlton) and Geoff Truett (Crystal Palace) in a game they won 5-1.

At the end of the season Graham Adams resigned as coach and Don Welsh was appointed for the new season. The 1962-63 season will be remembered as one of the most severe in living memory. No matches were possible at Loakes Park between Boxing Day 1962 and the beginning of March, and the season was extended so that fixtures could be completed. One of the first matches to suffer was Wycombe's Amateur Cup tie against Uxbridge which was due to be played on 5th January, but no play was possible until 2nd March. Then Wycombe won 2-1 on a hard icy ground. By contrast, the following round against Barking was played on a pouring day with Wycombe just winning 3-2. In the Third Round Wycombe lost 2-3 at Hitchin despite an exciting second half recovery.

Opening of Floodlights

In 1964 the Isthmian League was extended to 20 clubs with the addition of Enfield, Hitchin Town, Sutton United and Hendon. Many clubs were now installing floodlights at their grounds, and Wycombe opened their lights in an Isthmian League match against Enfield on 25th September 1963. Wycombe won the match 3-1 with goals from Gale, Thomas and Beck. It was a generally disappointing season with the only success in the County Cup which was won with a 2-1 victory against Windsor & Eton in the final. In the Wycombe Hospital Cup the 1957 Wanderers XI beat the 1963 team by 2-1. The club changed from its traditional quartered strip to light and dark blue stripes during the season; this was also reflected in the design of the programme cover. But it was not popular and the following season the club reverted to the quartered shirts.

Season 1964/65 saw the debut of John Maskell in the Wycombe goal, but a fractured ankle in the first ten minutes of an F.A. Cup game at Hayes in October kept him out for much of the season. During December 1964 Don Welsh resigned as coach and Barry Darvill took over. In February 1965 the club chairman, Eric Webb, died following an illness and Jack Smethurst was appointed. Another disappointing season with the only success coming in the A.F.A. Invitation Cup and the Wycombe Hospital Cup which was won back from the 1957 side by 3-0.

1965/66 saw an improvement in results with the club finishing in fourth place having scored 100 goals in 38 matches. The Wanderers also reached the Fourth Round of the F.A. Amateur Cup with wins against Aveley (home 2-1), Penrith (home 1-0), St. Albans City (home 1-1, away 3-0) before losing to Hendon (away 1-2). In the F.A. Cup Wycombe met Guildford City in the First Round. Playing away the Blues were saved by an excellent last-minute goal by Len Worley to force a 2-2 draw. In the replay Guildford won 1-0 at Loakes Park. A new competition, the Wycombe Floodlight Cup, was entered along with Maidenhead United, Reading and Slough Town, with Slough being the eventual winners. The President, Mr. George Hodsdon, died during the season.

During the early sixties there was speculation over the plans for the extension of the hospital and the future of the club at Loakes Park, with talk of an alternative site being offered for development. Happily the hospital developments went ahead without interfering with the club's continued existence at Loakes Park.

F.A. Cup Marathon

Season 1966/67 will be remembered for the epic F.A. Cup struggle against Bedford Town in the First Round. After easily overcoming Cheshunt 8-0 in the previous round, Wycombe could have little idea that the contest would develop into a marathon lasting 6½ hours. The first match at Loakes Park drew a crowd of 7,488. After a goalless first half Bedford opened the scoring with Keith Samuels equalising for the Wanderers with five minutes to go. Bedford held a 1-0 lead in the replay but after the interval Wycombe came back strongly to lead 2-1, the Southern League side being lucky to draw level in

the closing minutes. The game went into extra time with Wycombe again taking the lead before Bedford were awarded a controversial penalty two minutes from the end to make the score 3-3. A toss of the coin gave Wycombe the venue for the second replay and a crowd of 8,821 saw a 1-1 draw with the referee abandoning the match at the start of extra time because of incessant rain. So a fourth match was played at The Eyrie when the Eagles finally squeezed through to the Second Round by 3-2. In the course of over 6½ hours play over 32,000 had paid to watch the duel.

In the Isthmian League Wycombe finished in third place, and the club won the A.F.A. Invitation Cup, the Wycombe Floodlight Cup and the Marlow Invitation Cup. Tony Horseman set a club scoring record of 76 goals in all competitions. Another player making an impression was 17-year-old Viv Busby who was to become a regular in the side until 1969 when he moved to Luton Town and later to Newcastle, Fulham, Norwich, Stoke, Sheffield United and Blackburn.

In December 1968 Barry Darvill resigned as coach and the club appointed Brian Lee in his place. It was to be the start of an era of unparalleled success for Wycombe Wanderers; one that would bring national publicity to the club.

With the arrival of Brian Lee changes soon began to emerge. The selection committee which had always operated in the past was abandoned with Lee in full control of team affairs. The reserve team was axed in favour of a squad system. John Rear-

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don, who had taken nearby Chesham United to Wembley in the Amateur Cup, came to Loakes Park as Lee's assistant.

The club finished the 1968/69 season in fourth place in the Isthmian League and won the A.F.A. Invitation Cup in rather unusual circumstances. The 1967/68 Final was delayed for nearly a year with Wycombe playing Dulwich Hamlet on 17th May 1969 at Loakes Park and winning 4-2. Seven days earlier the Blues had been dismissed from the 1968/69 tournament at Worthing and so held the Cup for only a week before handing it back to be presented to the next winners.

Among the newcomers at Loakes Park at the start of the 1969/70 season was John Delaney who took over the captaincy of the club. During the season he was joined by Keith Searle, Peter Suddaby, Keith Blunt and John Hutchinson who all quickly established their places in the side. In the Isthmian League the Blues lost only twice all season and an unbeaten run from 6th September 1969 to the end of the season saw them finish as runners-up behind Enfield.

In the Amateur Cup the club battled through to the Quarter-Finals before losing at home to St. Albans. The club entered the Premier Midweek Floodlight League winning their section to qualify for the play-off against the other two section winners, Leatherhead and Walton & Hersham. However, with all three clubs involved in end-of-season tours not all of these matches were played with the title being awarded to Wycombe as the club with the highest number of points. In January 1970 Viv Busby left the club to join Luton Town—the first of eight Football League clubs he was to play for—while at the end of the season Peter Suddaby signed for Blackpool.

New faces at Loakes Park the following season included Ted Powell, Paul Fuschillo and Larry Pritchard. Playing its fiftieth season in the Isthmian League, the club was successful in winning its third championship title.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE 1970-71

	Senior Section				Goals			
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.	
Wycombe Wanderers . . .	38	28	6	4	93	32	62	
Sutton United	38	29	3	6	76	35	61	
St. Albans City	38	23	10	5	87	26	56	
Enfield	38	24	7	7	87	24	55	
Ilford	38	21	7	10	74	51	49	
Hendon	38	18	11	9	81	37	47	
Barking	38	20	4	14	89	59	44	
Leytonstone	38	17	10	11	68	50	44	
Woking	38	18	6	14	57	50	42	
Walthamstow Avenue . .	38	14	11	13	63	52	39	
Oxford City	38	13	10	15	51	48	36	
Hitchin Town	38	12	9	17	46	60	33	
Wealdstone	38	12	8	18	45	54	32	
Tooting & Mitcham Utd. .	38	11	9	18	44	66	31	
Kingstonian	38	11	8	19	53	71	30	
Bromley	38	10	6	22	34	77	26	
Dulwich Hamlet	38	7	10	21	30	66	24	
Maidstone United	38	7	6	25	42	84	20	
Clapton	38	5	7	26	33	101	17	
Corinthian Casuals	38	2	8	28	23	103	12	

In the Amateur Cup Wycombe again reached the Quarter-Finals with home wins over Wealdstone (1-0), Enfield (1-0) and Oldbury United (4-0). The Fourth Round draw saw them at home again, this time to Skelmersdale United. A crowd of 10,203 saw Wycombe well beaten by 3 goals to nil by the side who went on to win the Cup. In the F.A. Cup the Wanderers reached the First Round proper before losing to local rivals Slough Town after a replay. The Wanderers and The Rebels met again in the County Cup final and again it took two matches to settle it with Slough winning by the only goal. At Easter the club were invited to Jersey and Guernsey as part of the Channel Islands F.A. celebrations, and the end of season tour took the club to Gibraltar.

As the Blues entered the 1971/72 season Brian Lee warned the fans that it would be more difficult to retain the league title than it had been to win it the previous season, but despite his caution Wycombe were again successful, winning the championship in style. In their 40 matches the Blues scored 102 goals while conceding only 20. Playing their part in this success story were Paul Birdseye, Mick Hollifield, Julian Lailey, Derek Gambin and Mick Melhows who arrived at Loakes Park during the season.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE 1971-72

Senior Section

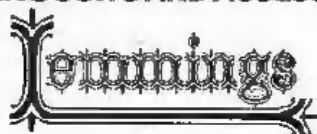
	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals		
					F.	A.	Pts.
Wycombe Wanderers	40	31	3	6	102	20	65
Enfield	40	26	8	6	90	41	60
Walton & Hersham	40	24	8	8	69	25	56
Hendon	40	23	10	7	78	35	56
Bishops Cleeve	40	24	5	11	61	37	53
Sutton United	40	21	10	9	77	43	52
St. Albans City	40	23	4	13	74	47	50
Ilford	40	17	11	12	62	52	45
Barking	40	20	4	16	65	61	44
Hitchin Town	40	17	10	13	60	66	44
Bromley	40	16	10	14	67	64	42
Hayes	40	14	12	14	50	48	40
Oxford City	40	13	9	18	67	74	35
Woking	40	11	10	19	52	58	32
Kingstonian	40	10	12	18	49	59	32
Walthamstow Avenue	40	12	8	20	58	70	32
Leytonstone	40	11	8	21	48	68	30
Tooting & Mitcham Utd.	40	6	9	25	38	93	21
Clapton	40	7	7	26	45	118	21
Dulwich Hamlet	40	4	12	24	35	81	20
Corinthian Casuals	40	3	4	33	21	116	10

Disappointment in the Amateur Cup

In the F.A. Amateur Cup, Wycombe got off to a shaky start. Playing at Aveley in the First Round the Wanderers recovered from an early two goal deficit to force a replay at Loakes Park which was won comfortably by 5-1. Spennymoor United came to Loakes Park in the Second Round and a thrilling match ended with a 2-1 win for Wycombe.

At Walton & Hersham in the Third Round, Wycombe took a half-time lead with a goal by Melhows. After an hour's play the home side equalised but Wycombe quickly restored their lead within a

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minute of conceding the goal, Horseman scoring with a typically opportunist effort. Soon afterwards Larry Pritchard left the field with two cracked ribs—an injury which kept him out of the side for the rest of the Cup matches. In his absence Wycombe were unlucky not to increase their lead when Delaney missed a penalty and Horseman had a “goal” ruled offside. But a 2-1 win saw the Blues through to their third consecutive Quarter-Final tie. Drawn at home to Hayes the Wycombe team had to put aside any thoughts of the defeats by St. Albans and Skelmersdale. The match-winner was Keith Searle—who had started the season at Hayes before returning to Wycombe at the end of August. His goal was enough to put Wycombe into the Semi-Finals where they were drawn against Hendon at Brentford. Because of amateur international calls on players the matches against Walton & Hersham, Hayes and Hendon were played on consecutive Saturdays—another psychological test for the players. Wycombe started the match at Brentford in attacking mood and it was against the run of the play that Hendon opened the scoring after 14 minutes. They held their slender lead until half-time with John Swannell in great form in the Hendon goal. Wycombe’s equaliser came after 60 minutes with John Hutchinson scoring after a fine move with Keith Searle. Hendon’s winning goal was both spectacular and controversial. The scorer was Peter Deadman who unleashed a powerful long-range drive but Wycombe’s players, led by John Maskell and Ted Powell, appealed to the referee that a Hendon player was in an offside position. The referee ruled that the player was not interfering with play and the goal stood. Wycombe continued to press forward forcing a succession of corners, but it was too late—their chance of another Wembley appearance had gone, for the time being at least.

Team: J. Maskell, I. Rundle, D. Bullock, E. Powell, J. Delaney, R. Williams, M. Mellows, D. Gambin, K. Searle, A. Horseman, J. Hutchinson. Sub.: T. Waughman.

In the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup Wycombe and Slough met again in the final played at Maidenhead. With time running out the match appeared to be heading towards a goalless draw when the Rebels scored three goals in the last ten minutes to take the Cup.

At the end of the season the club went on tour to Greece, playing matches against the Greek National Youth XI (won 1-0) and against a Panathinaikos Under-23 XI. This match was played as a “curtain raiser” to the Greek Under-23 international against Czechoslovakia in front of a crowd of nearly 30,000. The temperature was in the upper eighties as Wycombe stunned the local side with a 3-1 win. Maskell was the Wycombe hero producing a string of excellent saves while goals from Terry Reardon, Mick Hollifield and Keith Searle put the Blues three goals ahead before the Greek side scored a late consolation goal. Keith Searle ended the season as top goalscorer with 40, while Horseman hit 35.

During the season the club again had the honour of staging the Amateur International match against

the Republic of Ireland. Unfortunately this coincided with the power crisis of that year and was played on a Friday afternoon with the attendance suffering as a consequence. England won the match 2-0.

Following their recent success in both league and cup competitions, season 1972/73 was regarded as something of a disappointment. In the league Wycombe finished in fourth place while little progress was made in either the F.A. Cup or the Amateur Cup. The County Cup final was again a Wycombe v Slough affair with Wycombe beating Slough’s Amateur Cup final team 1-0 at Chesham. The Blues had been fortunate to force a replay against Spartan League side Bracknell Town in the Semi-Finals, winning the second game 1-0.

At the end of the season John Delaney signed for Bournemouth after four seasons as club captain, while Alan Gane, who had spent only one season at Loakes Park, signed for Brentford. Another player who had made a handful of appearances in the last matches of the season and caught the attention of the fans was Ken Swain who later played for Chelsea, Aston Villa and Nottingham Forest.

The 1973/74 season saw the introduction of sponsorship from Rothmans to the Isthmian League. This brought a number of fresh ideas to the game with the emphasis on positive attacking football with less bookings and more goals. Three points were awarded for a win and there were incentives for goalscoring and sportsmanship. Wycombe won the league title for the third time in four seasons and remained unbeaten at home all season. In the closing stages the Blues were hard pressed by Hendon and Bishop’s Stortford and, with all three playing three matches a week at times, the title was not decided until the final day of the season. In the first season of sponsorship, Wycombe had received only one caution throughout the whole of the campaign.

ROTHMANS ISTHMIAN LEAGUE 1973-74

Division I

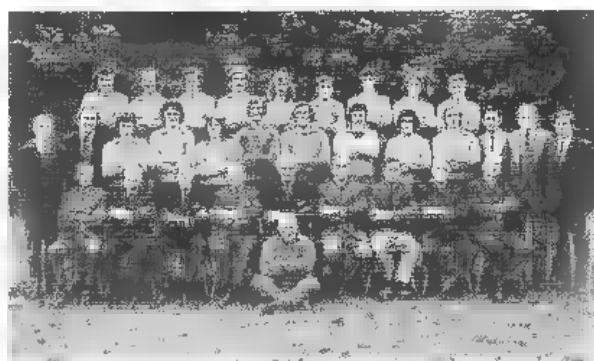
	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals		
					F.	A.	Pts.
Wycombe Wanderers	42	27	9	6	96	34	90
Hendon	42	25	13	4	63	20	88
Bishop’s Stortford	42	26	9	7	78	26	87
Dulwich Hamlet	42	22	11	9	71	38	77
Leatherhead	42	23	6	13	81	44	75
Walton & Hersham	42	20	12	10	68	50	72
Woking	42	22	■	14	63	55	72
Leytonstone	42	20	9	13	63	44	69
Ilford	42	20	8	14	60	44	68
Hayes	42	17	14	11	65	43	65
Oxford City	42	15	16	11	45	47	61
Sutton United	42	13	16	13	51	52	55
Hitchin Town	42	15	10	17	68	73	55
Barking	42	14	12	16	57	■	■
Kingstonian	42	12	15	15	47	46	51
Tooting & Mitcham	42	14	9	19	57	62	51
Enfield	42	13	11	18	50	57	50
Walthamstow Avenue	42	11	13	18	46	62	46
Bromley	42	7	9	26	37	81	30
Clapton	42	■	3	31	36	128	27
St. Albans City	42	4	7	31	30	92	19
Corinthian Casuals	42	3	4	35	31	107	13

In the F.A. Cup the Wanderers battled through from the First Qualifying Round to the Competition Proper with wins over Tilbury (away 3-0), Woking (home 1-0), Chatham (away 7-0) and Worthing (away 3-0). In the First Round Wycombe were drawn at home to Newport County. Despite dominating the play in the first half Wycombe were unable to score and at the interval the scoresheet was blank. But midway through the second half the Wanderers found their winning touch scoring three times through Steve Perrin (2) and Dylan Evans. Newport scored a consolation goal seven minutes from time to make the score 3-1. Wycombe again had the luck of the draw with a Second Round tie at home to the then Fourth Division leaders Peterborough United. A large crowd packed into Loakes Park for the match. At half-time the score was 1-1 with Larry Pritchard having scored for Wycombe. But two second-half goals by Peterborough gave them a 3-1 win.

Team: J. Maskell, R. Williams, R. Grant, P. Wood, D. Bullock, T. Reardon, A. Horseman, L. Pritchard, D. Evans, M. Holifield, S. Perrin. **Sub:** A. Brothers (not used).

In the Amateur Cup a comfortable 5-0 win at home against Hornchurch was followed by away ties at Evenwood Town (won 3-0) and Blyth Spartans (lost 1-2). For the fourth year in succession the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup final was contested by Slough Town and Wycombe Wanderers with Wycombe winning 3-1 at Wokingham with goals from Larry Pritchard and Tony Horseman (2).

1973/74 will also be remembered as the winter of the power crisis and the resulting three-day week. Because of this no evening matches were played between November 1973 and March 1974, while the club staged its first ever Sunday league match on 13th January 1974 when Corinthian-Casuals were the visitors. Wycombe won 7-0.



Rothmans Isthmian League Champions 1973-74

(Rear) S. Perrin, K. Mead, K. Searle, D. Evans, R. Grant, L. Pritchard (Captain), P. Birdseye, G. Mackenzie, A. Horseman. (Second Standing) B. R. Lee (Manager), C. Avery, M. Holifield, D. Bullock, A. Price, K. Reine, J. Maskell, I. Rundle, P. Wood, T. Reardon, T. Thomas, G. Roberts, J. Reardon (Asst. Manager). (Front Seated) R. Hart, P. Pearce, R. N. Lee (Treasurer), M. E. Seymour (President), J. Smethurst (Chairman), A. J. Crump (Secretary), J. Goldsworthy, R. Williams, H. Wharton, R. G. Sheppard (Team Attendant).

Wanderers reach the F.A. Cup Third Round

1974/75 will always be remembered as the season when Wycombe captured the national news headlines as they reached the Third Round of the

F.A. Cup for the first time and those two classic matches against Jackie Charlton's Middlesbrough. But at the start of the season, league results had been inconsistent. Larry Pritchard had left the club and returned to Sutton United. Into the side came newcomers Howard Kennedy, Dave Alexander, Alan Phillips and Gary Hand.

The F.A. Cup trail started at Marlow in the First Qualifying Round on 14th September when the Wanderers recorded a narrow 1-0 win. Further wins over Milton Keynes (home 2-0), Chesham United (away 3-1) and Margate (home 2-1) put Wycombe into the First Round draw. Cheltenham Town were the visitors to Loakes Park including in their side former Wycombe player Julian Lailey. Wycombe won 3-1 with a penalty from Tony Horseman and goals from Mick Holifield and Paul Birdseye.

The Second Round brought another former Wycombe player back to Loakes Park—John Delaney who led the Bournemouth side out. The match ended in a goalless draw. In the replay at Dean Court, Bournemouth started well and took the lead after nine minutes, holding thier lead until half-time. In the second half Wycombe began to take control and equalised through Tony Horseman before Steve Perrin scored the goal that gave Wycombe a place in the Third Round for the first time.

Their opponents were Middlesbrough, joint leaders of the First Division. A capacity crowd of 12,000 filled the ground and the match was covered by ITV's "Big Match" cameras. Wycombe's midfield trio of Mead, Phillips and Reardon dominated the match and at half-time there was no score. In the second half Middlesbrough did not manage a single shot at the Wycombe goal, while at the other end the Wanderers front-runners taunted the 'Boro defence. Steve Perrin had a chance to put Wycombe ahead soon after the break while Alan Phillips saw his header rocket into the side netting. With the final score 0-0 the Wanderers were faced with the prospects of the replay at Ayresome Park. Jackie Charlton predicted "Murder at Ayrsome Park" but it was the Wycombe side who opened the attacking. It was not until midway through the half that John Maskell in the Wycombe goal had to make his first save. Then began the 'Boro onslaught on the Wycombe goal which brought out the best in Maskell who played the game of his life. His skill and acrobatic saves earned him the respect of the Teesside crowd. It was not until the final seconds of the game that the Wycombe goal finally fell. Graham Souness passed to David Armstrong who steered the ball wide of Maskell. Seconds later the final whistle sounded. The 30,000 crowd gave Wycombe a great ovation and the Middlesbrough players formed a line to congratulate the Wycombe team as they left the field. Afterwards, Jack Charlton said that it was the greatest ovation to a visiting side that he could remember.

Team: J. Maskell, P. Birdseye, G. Hand, K. Mead, A. Phillips, T. Reardon, S. Perrin, H. Kennedy, K. Searle, M. Holifield, A. Horseman. **Sub:** D. Evans (80 minutes).

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With a minute to go at Ayresome Park, Wycombe Wanderers finally proved that they didn't need a 'slope' to make them into a good side, and Jackie Charlton's Middlesbrough had in no way 'murdered' them as proficiend.

Neither trainer had been on the field once in two games, hardly a deliberate foul had been committed and the immaculate attitude of the Wycombe players had even rubbed off on the professionals, who retrieved 'dead' balls, picked opponents up after tackles and even exchanged the occasional smile! How the crowd appreciated the change from the usual 'rat race' atmosphere.

The anxious home supporters suddenly roared their relief as the brilliant John Maskell was at last beaten, and seconds later the final whistle sounded.

The main stand stood as one to applaud the non-leaguers but the reaction on the terraces took everyone's breath away. From all quarters of the ground the loudest roar of the night echoed "WYCOMBE, WYCOMBE, WYCOMBE".

The Wycombe Players who were embracing their opponents in exhausted huddles broke away to meet together in the centre circle and waved an acknowledgement to the 30,128, then they turned back to find the Middlesbrough players forming a guard of honour at the end of which Brian Lee, John Reardon and Jackie Charlton added their congratulations!

The emotion comes back at the thought and there wasn't a dry-eye among the Wycombe supporters at the time!

(*From Rothmans Football News.)

At the time of their Cup defeat Wycombe appeared to have little chance of retaining their Isthmian League title. They were in tenth place with Enfield holding an apparently uncatchable lead at the top of the table. But Wycombe did not lose another league match that season with 15 wins and five draws from

their last 20 matches. They clung on to their title by winning their final match against Dagenham 1-0 to pip Enfield by the slenderest of goal averages—just 0.1 of a goal. Wycombe were again unbeaten at home in the league and again collected only one caution throughout the season.

ROTHMANS ISTHMIAN LEAGUE 1974-75

Division I

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Wycombe Wanderers	42	28	11	3	93	30	95
Enfield	42	29	8	5	78	26	95
Dagenham	42	28	11	3	95	44	89
Tooting & Mitcham Utd.	42	25	9	8	78	46	84
Dulwich Hamlet	42	24	10	8	75	38	82
Leatherhead	42	23	10	9	83	42	79
Ilford	42	23	10	9	98	51	79
Oxford City	42	17	9	16	63	56	60
Slough Town	42	17	6	19	68	52	57
Sutton United	42	17	6	19	68	63	57
Bishop's Stortford	42	17	6	19	56	64	57
Hitchin Town	42	15	10	17	57	71	51
Hendon	42	15	7	20	59	74	52
Walthamstow Avenue	42	13	9	20	56	62	48
Woking	42	12	10	20	53	73	46
Hayes	42	10	14	18	52	66	44
Barking	42	12	8	22	57	81	44
Leytonstone	42	12	7	23	42	61	43
Kingstonian	42	13	4	25	48	73	43
Clapton	42	12	4	26	46	96	40
Walton & Hersham	42	9	4	29	37	108	31
Bromley	42	11	3	33	25	110	21

With the abolition of amateur status, the game of football lost both the old Amateur Cup competition and the amateur international matches. The stronger non-league sides were entered in the F.A. Trophy alongside the semi-professional clubs. The Wanderers had a poor introduction to the new tournament losing 0-3 to Ilford in their first match.

In the County Cup, Wycombe and Slough—who had met in the four previous finals—were drawn together in the Third Round with the Blues winning 3-0 at Slough. Rivets Sports were overwhelmed 7-1 in the semi-final at Aylesbury and Wycombe met Thatcham in the final at Chesham. This turned out to be something of a traumatic day for the Wanderers. First Keith Mead was sent off following a comment to a team mate. After 90 minutes there was no score and the match moved into extra time. The Blues took full advantage of their superior fitness and rattled in four goals, including a hat-trick from Tony Horseman. At the end of the match the Wycombe team applauded the Thatcham players off the field and walked straight to the dressing rooms leaving the County officials waiting to present the Cup and medals. The Wycombe action was in protest at the refusal of the Berks and Bucks F.A. to allow Wycombe Wanderers to enter the London Senior Cup. As a result, Wycombe were punished by both the F.A. and the County F.A. The Football Association severely reprimanded both the club and manager Brian Lee. The County F.A. expelled Wycombe from the season's competition and awarded the Cup to Thatcham.

Anglo-Italian Trophy

1975 saw Wycombe Wanderers enter Europe. The club was invited to represent non-league football in this country against A.C. Monza of Italy in the Anglo-Italian Trophy. The tie was played over two legs with Wycombe losing 0-1 in the first match in Italy. Two goals in the second match at Loakes Park were enough to win the trophy 2-1 on aggregate. At the end of the season Wycombe were also invited, together with Enfield, to "represent the Isthmian League in the Anglo-Italian Semi-Professional Tournament. Wycombe won their home matches against Pistoiese (4-0) and Teramo (1-0) but lost both matches in Italy 0-1 and 0-3 respectively to go out of the competition.

In the F.A. Cup the club enjoyed exemption until the Fourth Qualifying Round where they found themselves drawn away to Croydon. After 20 minutes Wycombe were two goals down but goals from Evans and Horseman earned a replay which the Wanderers won 5-2. The draw for the First Round paired Wycombe with Bedford Town—and thoughts of the marathon in 1966 soon returned. As it turned out it didn't go quite that far this time—but it took three matches before it was settled. The first match at Loakes Park was a 0-0 draw, while the replay ended 2-2 after extra time. The third match was played in torrential rain at Loakes Park with Wycombe winning 2-1. In the Second Round, Wycombe travelled to Cardiff City, missing some good chances before Cardiff scored the only goal of the match just before half-time.

In the County Cup, Wycombe were drawn away in every round beating Buckingham Town (7-1), Chalfont St. Peter (2-0) and Rivets Sports (6-2) before meeting Chesham United at "The Meadow" in the semi-final. The match will be remembered for two reasons. The first was the own goal by the Chesham side in the opening seconds which found its way into the Guinness Book of Records. The other is that Wycombe unknowingly played an ineligible player and subsequently withdrew from the competition after winning 4-2.

Wycombe finished the season as runners-up to Enfield in the Isthmian League maintaining an excellent disciplinary record with just two bookings during the season. On 19th August 1975, Slough Town had visited Loakes Park and won 1-0 to end the Wanderers' unbeaten home run which stretched back 52 matches to December, 1972. At the other end of the season the visit of Dagenham resulted in a most remarkable match which will probably always be remembered by those who saw it. With both sides playing attacking football it was only missed chances that kept the score at 0-0 at half-time. In the second period Wycombe produced some fast and accurate passing and devastating finishing to score six times to Dagenham's two. Even Brian Lee had to admit "That was magic!"

In November 1975 Brian Lee announced his intention to retire as Manager at the end of the season. His commitments at Bisham Abbey meant that he was unable to devote sufficient time to managing the team. His seven year reign at Loakes Park had been the most successful period in the history of the

club with four league title wins and two runners-up spots and consistently good performances in cup competitions. The only disappointment was not taking Wycombe to Wembley—the nearest had been the Amateur Cup Semi-Final in 1972. During the season Blues' chairman, Jack Smethurst, died; Reg Williams was elected to replace him.

Ted Powell was appointed as Manager at the start of the 1976/77 season but his reign at Loakes Park was short lived. In March 1977 the club terminated his employment after he had expressed his intention to apply for a full-time post abroad. John Reardon took over for the remainder of the season. On the field the club again finished as runners-up with the championship in doubt until the last match of the season. Enfield were again champions with Dagenham in third place—a repeat of the previous season. In the F.A. Cup Wycombe beat Merthyr Tydfil (home 3-1) and Waterlooville (away 2-1) to meet Reading at Loakes Park in the Second Round. The match was played on a hard frosty pitch with Reading taking a two goal lead at half-time. In the second half Wycombe attacked the Reading goal and in the 68th minute pulled a goal back through Ian Pearson. Several more chances came Wycombe's way and they were unlucky not to force a replay.

In the F.A. Trophy the Blues finally recorded their first win away at Barnet (1-0) but lost in the Second Round at Runcorn. In the County Cup Wycombe slumped to a shock defeat at Hungerford in the semi-final after leading at half-time.

During the season the club also staged a testimonial match for long serving players Tony Horseman and John Maskell who had both given outstanding service to the club. A team of past players were beaten by the 1976/77 squad, 5-4.

Season 1977/78 saw Wycombe finish in third place in the Isthmian League having lost only two sportsmanship points—in five seasons the club had suffered only six bookings in 210 league matches. Enfield won the title with a record 110 points, 31 points ahead of runners-up Dagenham. In the F.A. Cup, Wycombe Wanderers were exempted to the First Round Proper stage for the first time, but lost 0-2 at Minehead. The Berks & Bucks Senior Cup was won against Chalfont St. Peter at Aylesbury, while the club also entered the Shaw & Kilburn Floodlight League and finished as runners-up to Banbury United.

At the end of the season Wycombe parted company with John Reardon and Andy Williams was appointed as Manager. The club finished the 1978/79 season in sixth place in the Isthmian League. In the F.A. Cup, Wycombe were again exempt to the First Round Proper and were unlucky to lose at Maidstone when, after dominating much of the game, they fell to an indirect free-kick which the unfortunate Peter Spittle tipped into his own net. In the County Cup the Blues beat Chalfont St. Peter (away 2-1), Maidenhead United (home 6-1), Slough Town (home 1-1, away 1-0) before meeting Hungerford in the final. The first match at Marlow went into extra time and with Hungerford leading 2-1 only a

last-minute penalty conversion by Howard Kennedy saved Wycombe from defeat. In the replay at Slough, Hungerford again took the lead, but Wycombe pulled back to lead 2-1 at half-time. A further goal in the second half put the Cup beyond the reach of Hungerford.

Season 1979/80 was a time of change at Loakes Park. After a disappointing first half of the season, Andy Williams resigned as manager. Brian Lee took over on a caretaker basis until Mike Keen was appointed in January 1980. Results began to improve with the last eleven league matches producing 26 points to lift Wycombe to tenth place in the table. A number of players joined the club during the season including Gary Lester, Bob Dell and George Borg. Mike Phillips came to the club as full-time Commercial Manager and took over the running of the club lottery which is so important in providing much needed funds to the football club.

Season 1980/81 saw an improvement in league position with the team finishing third in the league. In the F.A. Cup the club met Bournemouth in the First Round at Loakes Park but there was to be no repeat of the 1974 result with the South Coast club winning 3-0. Reserve team football returned to Loakes Park with the re-formed side finishing sixth in the Suburban League (North Division). Fans at Loakes Park also had the opportunity of seeing the High Wycombe & District Schools team win the English Schools Trophy. In the two-legged final, a single goal in the first match at Loakes Park was enough to give the boys victory over Sunderland.

In 1981 Brian Lee was elected Chairman. He had served as Honorary Vice-Chairman since resigning as manager in 1976.

Season 1981/82 proved to be the story of so near . . . and yet so far. At Easter the Blues had the

exciting prospect of winning the F.A. Trophy, the Isthmian League, The Hitachi League Cup and the County Cup. But in the short space of 12 days their hopes were dashed. The first blow came in the County Cup final on Easter Monday. Playing Hungerford Town at Wokingham the Wanderers lost to a late goal. The following Saturday the Blues met Altrincham at Loakes Park in the Second Leg of the Trophy Semi-Final. The first leg the previous week had ended in a 1-1 draw after Altrincham had scored a late equaliser in the dying minutes of the match. The second match was played on a hard dusty pitch in front of a crowd of 4,896 who saw the Wanderers lose 0-3. Four days later Wycombe visited Kingstonian for a Hitachi Cup semi-final replay and again lost 1-2. Two away league defeats at Sutton United and Dulwich Hamlet cost Wycombe their chances of the league title and they finished in third place.

But the highlight of the season must have been that run in the F.A. Trophy. Beginning on a wet evening in January at Walthamstow Avenue the Blues drew 1-1 to force a replay at Loakes Park. That, too, ended 1-1 and the toss of a coin gave Wycombe choice of venue for the third match. A convincing 5-1 win put Wycombe into the Second Round where they were drawn away to Hyde United. The Wanderers survived a tough game at Hyde, winning an exciting replay with an unforgettable free kick from Howard Kennedy. The Third Round brought Bishop Auckland—Wycombe's old Amateur Cup rivals—to Loakes Park. Wycombe invited their 1957 Amateur Cup team as guests that day and they saw Mike Keen's men "bash the Bishops" winning 4-1. In the Fourth Round a Terry Glynn goal at Kidderminster put Wycombe into the Semi-Finals. Sadly there was to be no dream ending but many will remember the exciting football played that season.



Wycombe Wanderers' longest serving player, Tony Horseman, receives a presentation from Barry East, Chairman of the Isthmian League, on the occasion of his retirement. Sir Stanley Rous looks on.

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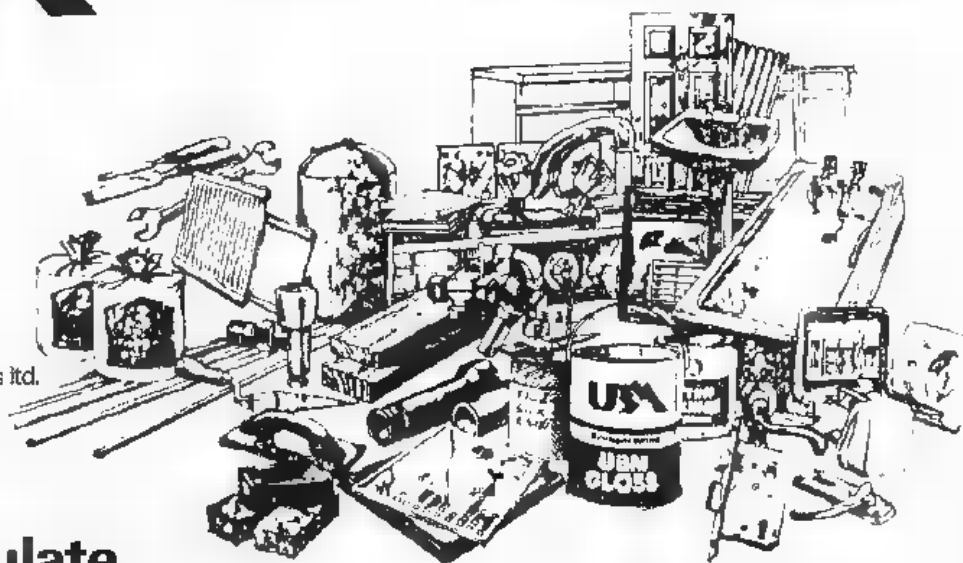


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Wycombe won their seventh Isthmian League title in the 1982/83 having led the race for most of the season. The Blues first topped the table on 16th October and remained there until the end of the season. The team took 28 points out of a maximum 30 in their last ten matches putting the pressure on the teams chasing them who needed to convert games in hand into points in order to deprive Wycombe of the title. Ironically Wycombe received the news that the title was theirs just after suffering the disappointment of losing to Sutton United in the final of the Hitachi League Cup. The club was invited to Italy to represent England along with Chelmsford in the Gigi Peronace Memorial Cup playing against Italian sides Padua and Cosenza. Wycombe lost 0-4 to Cosenza but claimed third place by beating Chelmsford 5-3 on penalties.

In the F.A. Cup Wycombe travelled to Eastville to play Bristol Rovers. On a wet and windy afternoon they gave a good display and were unlucky to lose to a second half goal. Boston United put an end to Wycombe's F.A. Trophy aspirations, while Bracknell caused an upset by dumping Wycombe out of the County Cup.

SERVOWARM ISTHMIAN LEAGUE 1982-83

Premier Division

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals		Pts.
					F.	A.	
Wycombe Wanderers	42	26	7	9	79	47	85
Leytonstone-Ilford	42	24	9	9	71	39	81
Harrow Borough	42	24	7	11	91	58	79
Hayes	42	23	9	10	63	41	78
Sutton United	42	20	8	14	96	71	68
Dulwich Hamlet	42	18	14	10	59	52	68
Slough Town	42	18	13	11	73	36	67
Bognor Regis Town	42	19	8	15	53	48	65
Tooting & Mitcham Utd.	42	18	9	15	58	56	63
Billerica Town	42	17	10	15	54	51	61
Croydon	42	17	9	16	68	60	60
Hendon	42	18	6	18	68	61	60
Bishop's Stortford	42	17	9	16	61	58	60
Barking	42	14	14	14	47	55	58
Bromley	42	14	12	16	51	50	54
Carshalton Athletic	42	15	9	18	58	60	54
Wokingham Town	42	13	9	20	37	51	48
Walthamstow Avenue	42	12	11	19	48	64	47
Staines Town	42	12	11	19	62	79	47
Hitchin Town	42	11	9	22	49	77	42
Woking	42	6	6	30	30	79	24
Leatherhead	42	4	5	33	36	121	17

By winning the Servovarm Isthmian League title Wycombe Wanderers had the opportunity to move into the Alliance Premier League. The club gave careful thought to this before deciding to stay in the Servovarm Isthmian League. In addition to the increased travelling costs which would be inevitable in a national competition, it was felt that a move into

the Alliance Premier League would require a change of management, committee and playing staff. Whilst the appearance of different teams at Loakes Park would give a temporary boost to gates, it was felt that supporters would find it more difficult to travel to away matches.

1983/84 proved to be a difficult season for the club with much comment in the local press concerning club policy. On the field it was a disappointing season. Although the club won the Dylon Charity Shield in the opening match of the campaign, early league form was inconsistent. The club appeared in the draw for the First Round Proper of the F.A. Cup for the eleventh season running—a current record for a non-league club—but were beaten by Chelmsford City after a replay. In the Trophy, Wycombe beat Dorchester 4-0 at home before losing to another Southern League side, Bromsgrove Rovers, away in the Second Round. One highlight was another excellent run in the Hitachi Cup which put Wycombe through to a repeat of the previous season's final against Sutton United. The first leg at Wycombe ended in a 1-1 draw, while Sutton won the second leg 2-0 to retain the Cup. Wycombe Reserves won the Suburban League (Northern Division) title at a time when their future was in doubt. At the end of the season Wycombe Wanderers decided not to re-engage Mike Keen as team manager, and Paul Bence was appointed for the Centenary season.

The new season starts with some new faces amongst the players and hopes will be high for another successful season. But win or lose, everyone associated with the club will enjoy reflecting with pride on a hundred years of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club—and look forward to many more years of football at Loakes Park.

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C. W. Deacon	1908-1913
Marquis of Lincolnshire	1913-1928
Marchioness of Lincolnshire	1928-1929
G. T. Miles	1929-1943
C. P. Vine	1943-1954
J. Timberlake	1954-1964
G. Hodsdon	1964-1966
M. E. Seymour	1966-

Secretary:

J. Ray	1887-1891
F. Jennings	1891-1893
C. Harper	1893-1908
J. N. F. Vale	1908-1910
B. C. Hooper	1910-1925
W. Howland	1925-1928
R. J. Gardner	1928-1935
W. Howland	1935-1936
R. G. Boreham	1936-1949
W. J. Hayter	1949-1969
A. J. Crump	1969-1975
A. J. Mahoney	1975-1975
J. Goldsworthy	1975-

Chairman:

W. Dimmock	
C. W. Deacon	1898-1900
R. Howland	1900-1902
C. W. Deacon	1902-1913
G. T. Miles	1913-1932
R. Spatchett	1932-1951
J. Timberlake	1951-1954
G. Partridge	1954-1956
E. L. Webb	1956-1965
J. Smethurst	1965-1975
R. H. Williams	1975-1981
B. R. Lee	1981-

Treasurer:

G. Cook	1887-1890
W. Pearce	1890-1895
C. Harper	1895-1896
R. Howland, Jnr.	1896-1898
G. T. Miles	1898-1926
G. R. Bunce	1926-1963
A. Rackstraw	1963-1968
R. G. Maskell	1968-1969
R. N. Lee	1969-1975
A. F. Ward	1975-1977
G. B. Cox	1977-

AMATEUR INTERNATIONAL CAPS

The following players were awarded amateur international caps whilst playing for Wycombe Wanderers:

England

R. W. Boreham
P. A. Bates
D. Edwards
L. F. Worley
A. Horseman
J. J. Delaney
L. Pritchard
P. J. Suddaby
E. W. Powell
P. M. Fuschillo

Wales

A. V. Grace
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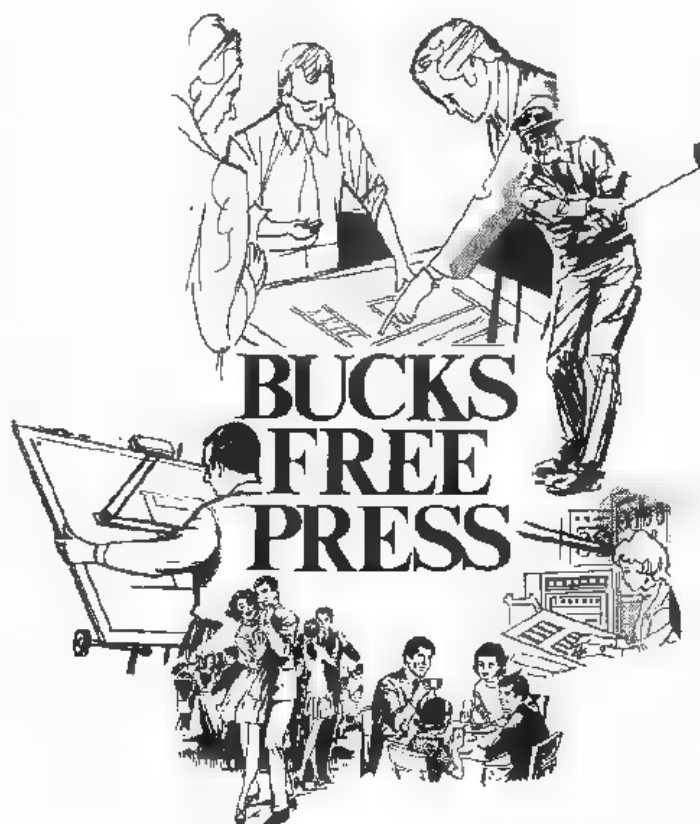
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FIXTURES 1984-85

AUGUST

SAT 11	A	FARNBOROUGH	F
MON 13	A	DAGENHAM	F
TUES 21	A	METROPOLITAN POLICE	F
SAT 25	A	WOKINGHAM	SIL
TUES 28	H	EPSOM & EWELL	SIL

SEPTEMBER

SAT 1	H	BILLERICAY	SIL
TUES 4	A	HAYES	SIL
SAT 8	A	BOGNOR	SIL
SAT 15	H	BARKING	SIL
SAT 22	A	HARLOW	SIL
WED. 26	H	LEICESTER CITY	F*
SAT 29	H	BISHOPS STORTFORD	SIL

OCTOBER

WED 3	H	LEICESTER CITY	F*
SAT 6	A	DULWICH HAMLET	SIL
SAT 13	H	WINDSOR & ETON	SIL
TUES 16	A	BURNHAM	B&B
SAT 20	A	CROYDON	SIL
SAT 27		F.A. CUP 4th Qualifying Round	

NOVEMBER

SAT 3	A	LEYTONSTONE & ILFORD	SIL
TUES 6	H	SLOUGH	SIL
TUES 13	H	HAYES	SIL
SAT 17	A	CARSHALTON	SIL
SAT 24	A	SUTTON	SIL

DECEMBER

SAT 1	H	HARLOW	SIL
SAT 8	A	HARROW BORO.	SIL
SAT 22	A	SLOUGH	SIL
WED 26	H	WOKINGHAM	SIL
SAT 29	A	WALTHAMSTOW	SIL

JANUARY

TUES 1	A	WINDSOR & ETON	SIL
SAT 5	H	SUTTON	SIL
SAT 12		F.A. TROPHY 1st Round	
SAT 19	H	WALTHAMSTOW	SIL
SAT 26	A	WORTHING	SIL

FEBRUARY

SAT 2	H	CROYDON	SIL
SAT 9	A	HENDON	SIL
SAT 16	H	HARROW BORO.	SIL
SAT 23	A	BISHOPS STORTFORD	SIL

MARCH

SAT 2	H	TOOTING & MITCHAM	SIL
SAT 9	A	EPSOM & EWELL	SIL
SAT 16	H	WORTHING	SIL
TUES 19	H	HITCHIN	SIL
SAT 23	A	BILLERICAY	SIL
TUES 26	H	HENDON	SIL
SAT 30	A	TOOTING & MITCHAM	SIL

APRIL

TUES 2	H	CARSHALTON	SIL
SAT 6	H	LEYTONSTONE & ILFORD	SIL
TUES 9	A	HITCHIN	SIL
SAT 13	A	BARKING	SIL
SAT 20	H	BOGNOR	SIL
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